Infrastructure Policy - 4.7 Watercraft Vessel Management Policy

Policy

Infrastructure Policies – 4.7 Watercraft Vessel Management Policy

Purpose

The aim of the Watercraft Vessel Management Policy is to formally manage the storage of all watercraft vessels along the Shire of Peppermint Grove's River foreshore areas, in accordance with State Government policy, for the protection of the foreshore amenity and environment, whilst optimising convenient access to moored vessels.

Scope

The Shire of Peppermint Grove Watercraft Vessel Management Policy applies to all persons, organisation's or others seeking to store or tether a dinghy, canoe, ski, board or tender type vessel ('dinghy') on the river foreshore areas that fall within the jurisdiction of the Shire of Peppermint Grove.

Objective

The objectives of the Shire of Peppermint Grove Watercraft Vessel Management Policy are:

1. To prohibit the uncontrolled storage of watercraft vessels along the Shire's foreshore areas
2. To control and manage the storage of watercraft vessels in a defined area
3. To ensure the needs of all foreshore users are considered when addressing the management of dinghy storage
4. To facilitate convenient access to moored vessels
5. To further protect and enhance the amenity and ecological value of the foreshore
6. Maintain and improve public safety and access to the river foreshore
7. Support the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DCBA) in the implementation of its Statement 45 - Planning for Miscellaneous Structure and Facilities in the Swan Canning Development Control Area. This statement outlines the appropriate storage arrangements for watercraft. In addition, the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Regulations 2007, Section 22A outlines that a person must not leave a vessel unattended for more than eight hours unless they have a permit, or the vessel is in an approved facility. The penalty is a fine of $5,000.

Policy

The ad hoc storage of watercraft vessels by the public is not permitted in any area of the foreshore. Storage of dinghies is only permitted in the formal watercraft vessel storage area and only with the appropriate Dinghy Storage Registration as issued by the Shire.

1. Watercraft vessel storage will be limited by the available space (as determined by the Shire), not by demand.
2. Any watercraft vessels found outside a designated watercraft vessel storage area, or any unregistered dinghy within a designated dinghy storage area may be subject to confiscation, impoundment and disposal by the Shire or DCBA.
3. With the Swan River being a State asset, watercraft vessel storage is available to the general public.
4. An annual registration fee will apply as set in the annual fees and charges schedule.
5. Registration is a flat fee for a calendar year and can be charged on a pro- rata basis, from when the application is received or approved. The annual fees will be charged in accordance with the adopted Fees and Charges schedule.
6. The Shire accepts no responsibility for any damage, theft or vandalism to property in or around this storage facility.
7. The Shire reserves the right to terminate any dinghy registration at any time.
8. If a storage bay is not renewed within 28 days of renewal date falling due, the bay will be considered ‘abandoned’ by the Shire, the dinghy impounded, and the bay re-let to another applicant on the wait list. If the vessel is impounded, a release fee as per the Shire’s fees and charges schedule will be required to retrieve the vessel from the storage sump.
9. All unclaimed impounded dinghies will be disposed of in an appropriate manner as directed by the Chief Executive Officer.
10. The Sea Scouts and PLC may store dinghies at the Chief Executive Officers discretion as, where and when required.

Related Local Law/Legislation	Swan and Canning Rivers Management Regulations 2007, Section 22A
Adopted/Amended	March 2023
Reviewed	June 2024; 22 September 2026